

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 23-28 are pending.

The present application is a divisional of U.S. application serial No. 09/556,701, filed on April 24, 2000, which is allowed.

Claims 9-22 have been canceled in the present application. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by that amendment.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

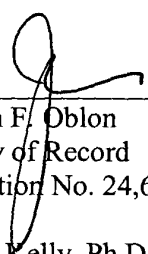
Respectfully submitted,

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